

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the third paragraph on page 3 of the application as follows:

A N, O-bis-silylated 3-iodomethyl-3-cephem compound of formula II ~~III~~ may be produced in the manner known from the prior art, e. g. as described in EP612752A2 by reacting 7-amino-cephalosporanic acid (7-ACA) with a silylation agent and then reacting it with an iodizing agent.